

# Water Lines

## SDW Hotline Report

### In This Issue

<a href="#">What's New?.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Frequently Asked Qs &amp; As.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Monthly Trends.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Did You Know?.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Hotline Stats.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Appendix A.....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>

### Top Ten Topics

Topic	Questions (phone & email)	Percent of Total* Questions
Local Drinking Water Quality	390	11
Tap Water Testing	343**	10
Home Water Treatment Units	235	7
Household Wells	225	6
Lead	174	5
Consumer Confidence Report	167	5
Other EPA Programs	163	5
Other Drinking Water Background	146	4
Coliforms	144	4
Radon	107	3

\*A total of 3,551 questions were answered by the Hotline (via telephone and email) in August 2002.

\*\*Citizens who obtain their drinking water from private household wells asked 34% of the tap water testing questions.

Published Monthly

See past reports at  
<http://intranet.epa.gov/ow/hotline>

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: National Toll-free No.: (800) 426-4791 or (877) EPAWATER

For More Information Contact:  
Harriet Hubbard, EPA Project Officer  
(202) 564-4621

Operated by Booz Allen Hamilton  
Under Contract #GS-10F-0090J

## What's New

### New Publications:

- National Primary Drinking Water Standards (revised), EPA816-F-02-013, is now available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mc1.html>.
- 2002 Edition of the Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories is now available at [www.epa.gov/waterscience/drinking/standards](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/drinking/standards).

### On the Safewater Web Site:

- New Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR) Pivot Tables that enable you to quickly summarize, cross-tabulate, and analyze large amounts of UCMR data are available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ucmrgetdata.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ucmrgetdata.html). (Contact: Lee Kyle at 202-564-4622)
- A new drinking water topic page on lead with information for day care centers, schools, and homeowners is available. The page also provides links to all available information on lead across the Agency [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/index.html). (Contact: Sherri Umansky at 202-564-4639)
- Total Coliform Rule and Potential Revisions and Distribution System Requirements [www.epa.gov/safewater/tcr/tcr.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/tcr/tcr.html).
- Notice of availability of draft report and request for comment. Study of Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing of Coalbed Methane Wells on Underground Sources of Drinking Water [www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/cbmsstudy.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/cbmsstudy.html).

### Add This To Your Calendar:

- National Source Water Protection Conference, "Moving Forward From Assessment to Protection," has been scheduled for June 2-4, 2003 in Washington, D.C. For additional information contact Beth Hall ([hall.beth@epa.gov](mailto:hall.beth@epa.gov)) or visit the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Web site at [www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/pdfs/swp\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/pdfs/swp_flyer.pdf).
- The Safe Drinking Water Hotline is now taking registrations for the Surface Water Treatment Rules training workshop scheduled for November 6-7 in San Francisco, California. Additionally, the Hotline continues to take registrations for the Surface Water Treatment Rules workshop in Seattle, Washington scheduled for October 8-9.
- The Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List Classification Process Work Group will meet on September 18-19, 2002 in Washington, D.C. Members of the public interested in attending should contact RESOLVE at (202) 944-2300.
- Small Systems Affordability Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council will meet on September 11-12, 2002 in Washington, D.C. Members of the public interested in attending should contact RESOLVE at (202) 944-2300.

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## Frequently Asked Qs & As

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*This section provides answers to frequently asked questions not necessarily represented in one of the Top Ten Topic categories.*

**Q:** States have interpreted radionuclide analytical results in a variety of ways including adding and subtracting standard deviations from analytical results. For compliance purposes, how should States interpret analytical results for radionuclides under the Radionuclides Rule?

**A:** Compliance and reduced monitoring frequencies are determined based on the "analytical result(s)" (141.26(c)(3)). The analytical result is the number that the laboratory reports, not including (*i.e.* not adding or subtracting) the standard deviation (65 FR 76708, 76727; December 7, 2000).

**Q:** When monitoring for radionuclides, compliance with the MCL is determined by a running annual average at each sampling point. If a public water system does not collect all required samples, how should compliance be determined?

**A:** If a system does not collect all required samples when compliance is based on a running annual average of quarterly samples, compliance will be based on the running average of the samples that were collected (141.26(c)(3)(iv)).

**Q:** Sodium is currently on the Contaminant Candidate List. Will sodium be regulated with a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation?

**A:** EPA has made a preliminary determination not to regulate sodium with a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR). On June 3, 2002, EPA announced the preliminary regulatory determinations for nine priority contaminants on the drinking water Contaminant Candidate List (67 FR 38222). Comments on this preliminary announcement will be reviewed and a final determination is scheduled for late 2002. Additional information on sodium is available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/sodium.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/sodium.html), [www.epa.gov/safewater/cclfs.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/cclfs.html), and [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/regdetermine.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/regdetermine.html).

**Q:** Can Indian Tribes obtain Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program primacy?

**A:** Yes. Section 1451(a)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended in 1986, authorizes EPA to assign primary enforcement responsibility (primacy) to qualified Tribes.

**Q:** The UIC regulations in 40 CFR 144.87(c) allow states to delineate "other sensitive ground water areas" by January 1, 2004, unless EPA grants a one year extension. How does EPA define "other sensitive ground water areas?"

**A:** The UIC regulations in 40 CFR 144.86(g) define "other sensitive ground water areas" as areas in the state in addition to ground water protection areas that are critical to protecting underground sources of drinking water from contamination. Other sensitive ground water areas may include, areas overlying sole-source aquifers; highly productive aquifers supplying private wells; continuous and highly productive aquifers at points distant from public water supply wells; areas where water supply aquifers are recharged; karst aquifers that discharge to surface reservoirs serving as public water supplies; vulnerable or sensitive hydrogeologic settings, such as glacial outwash deposits, eolian sands, and fractured volcanic rock; and areas of special concern selected based on a combination of factors, such as hydrogeologic sensitivity, depth to ground water, significance as a drinking water source, and prevailing land-use practices.

**Q:** A first draw sample is required when taking tap water samples for lead analysis. How does EPA define first draw sample?

**A:** A first draw sample is a one-liter sample of tap water that has stood motionless in the plumbing pipes for at least six hours and is collected without flushing the tap (40 CFR 141.2). All tap water samples for lead must be first draw samples collected in accordance with 40 CFR 141.86(b)(2).

**Q:** What are acrylamide and epichlorohydrin, and how are they regulated as drinking water contaminants?

**A:** Acrylamide is an organic solid of white, odorless, flake-like crystals. The greatest use of acrylamide is as a coagulant in drinking water treatment. Epichlorohydrin is a colorless organic liquid with a pungent, garlic-like odor. Epichlorohydrin is generally used to make glycerin and as an ingredient in plastics and other polymers, some of which are used in water supply systems. There are currently no acceptable means of detecting either acrylamide or epichlorohydrin in drinking water. Instead, EPA has set a treatment technique to control the level of both chemicals that enter into the drinking water supply by limiting their use in drinking water treatment processes. The regulations in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart K require that each water system must certify in writing to the state, using third-party or manufacturer's certification, that when acrylamide and epichlorohydrin are used in drinking water systems, the combination (or product) of dose and monomer level does not exceed the following levels:

Acrylamide = 0.05% dosed at 1 mg/L (or equivalent)

Epichlorohydrin = 0.01% dosed at 20 mg/L (or equivalent)

**Q:** The Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for aluminum indicates an acceptable range between 0.05 mg/l – 0.20mg/l. Why did EPA develop a range for this secondary contaminant, rather than a specific acceptable level?

**A:** While EPA encourages utilities to meet a level of 0.05mg/l for aluminum where possible, the Agency still believes that varying water quality and treatment situations necessitate a flexible approach to develop the SMCL. What may be appropriate in one case may not be appropriate in another. Hence, a range was developed for the aluminum SMCL (56 FR 3526, 3573; January 30, 1991).

**Q:** Must a community water system (CWS) that intermittently uses chlorine dioxide monitor daily for chlorine dioxide and chlorite as specified in 40 CFR 141.132(b)(2) and (c)(2)?

**A:** According to the *Implementation Guidance for the Stage 1 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule* (EPA816-R-01-012), a CWS that uses chlorine dioxide intermittently is not required to conduct the daily monitoring for chlorine dioxide

and chlorite for days when the chlorine dioxide is not in use. In addition, a CWS is not required to conduct monthly monitoring for chlorite as specified in 141.132(b)(2)(1)(B) if the chlorine dioxide has not been used at all for the entire month. However, monthly monitoring for chlorite is required if chlorine dioxide is used at any time during the month.

**Q:** What type of public water systems (PWSs) must monitor for chlorine dioxide and chlorite?

**A:** All community water systems and nontransient noncommunity water systems that use chlorine dioxide must monitor for both chlorine dioxide and chlorite (40 CFR 141.132(b)(2) and (c)(2)). Transient noncommunity water systems that use chlorine dioxide must monitor for chlorine dioxide, but not for chlorite (40 CFR 141.132(c)(2)).

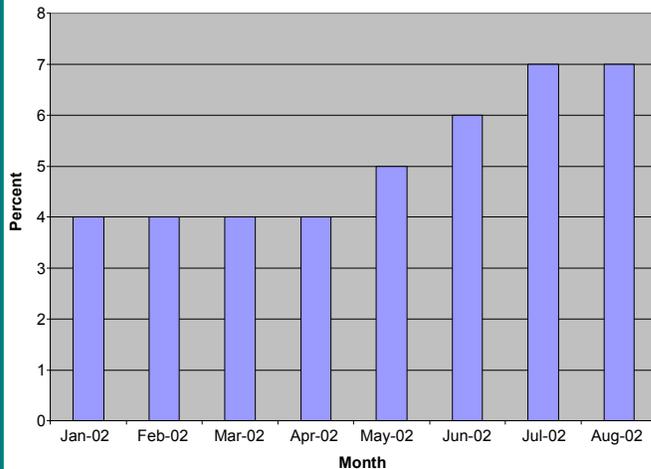
**Q:** Under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulations (UCMR), PWSs serving over 10,000 are required to report results to EPA within 30 days following the month in which the PWS received the data results from the laboratory (40 CFR 141.35). If a PWS discovers errors with the data and returns the data to the laboratory for corrections, does the PWS have another 30 days to review and approve the corrected data?

**A:** No. The UCMR does not specify any allowances for PWS review beyond 30 days following the month the data were made available (*Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation Reporting Guidance*, EPA815-R-01-029; November 2001). The PWS should begin its review as soon as possible, in case there are any problems with the data.

**Q:** Under the UCMR, EPA will arrange all testing and reporting of results for all systems serving a population of 10,000 or less (40 CFR 141.35(a)(2)). How can a small system obtain the UCMR data results for review?

**A:** A hard copy of the UCMR data generated from samples taken at PWSs serving a population of 10,000 or less will be sent to the PWS. The system also has the option of registering with the Central Data Exchange to review the data electronically.

## Monthly Trends



Since May of this year, the Safe Drinking Water Hotline has seen an increase in the percentage of questions about home water treatment units (HWTUs). In July and August, 2002, HWTU questions reached approximately seven percent of total questions, possibly influenced by a July, 2002, Reader's Digest reference to the Hotline as a resource for information on home water filters. In responding to these questions, Hotline Information Specialists generally suggested that callers contact NSF International and the Underwriters Laboratories for information about specific commercially available HWTUs. Some callers, depending on their additional questions, were also referred to the Water Quality Association for technical

information about water treatment methods for particular contaminants. Approximately 90 percent of callers inquiring about HWTUs are private citizens 70 percent of which get their drinking water from a public water system and 20 percent from private household wells. Caller profile observations made by Hotline Information Specialists reveal no significant geographic trend.

### Did You Know?

Over 500,000 people rely on the quality of drinking water provided by approximately 743 community water systems owned by Tribes (*Drinking Water Quality in Indian Country: Protecting Your Sources*, EPA816-F-00-005; April 2000). This document is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/protect/tribe/fact.pdf>.

**Hotline Statistics**

**Monthly Summary of Hotline Service**

Total number of calls answered	2,232
Total number of emails received	282
Average wait time (in seconds)	0:16
Percent of calls satisfied immediately	99.9%
Percent of all calls answered in < 1 min	94.0%
Percent of callbacks answered in 5 days	100%
Percent of emails answered in 5 days	100%
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about local DW quality	1,477
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about arsenic rule	74

**Customer Profiles**

Customer	Calls	Emails
Analytical Laboratories	24	2
Citizen - Private Well	334	48
Citizen - PWS	1,390	111
Consultants/Industry/Trade (DW)	128	34
Consultants/Industry/Trade (Other)	73	23
Environmental Groups	4	6
EPA	26	4
Other Federal Agency	15	5
Government, Local	20	8
Government, State	33	9
Government, Tribal	2	0
Spanish Speaking	4	0
International	4	13
Media	5	1
Medical Professional	5	0
Public Water System	106	15
Schools/University	28	3
Other	31	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>282</b>

**Comparison to Previous Years**

	Calls	Emails
August 2002	2,232	282
August 2001	2,405	284

**Top Ten Referrals**

Inquiry Referred to:	Number of Referrals	Percent of Total* Referrals
1. EPA Internet	348	14
2. State Lab Certification	342	14
3. NSF/WQA/UL	287	12
4. Local Water System	280	11
5. State PWSS	246	10
6. Local Public Health	152	6
7. AGWT/WSC	117	5
8. Non-EPA Internet	105	4
9. Other Hotlines	71	3
10. Other State	70	3

*\*2,493 total referrals to other resources, agencies, and organizations were provided by the Hotline in August 2002.*

**Daily Call Data**

	Total Calls Answered	Average Wait Time mm:sec
1-August	117	00:26
2-August	94	00:17
5-August	141	00:20
6-August	102	00:20
7-August	92	00:13
8-August	103	00:15
9-August	92	00:19
12-August	127	00:22
13-August	121	00:17
14-August	111	00:13
15-August	80	00:14
16-August	96	00:16
19-August	96	00:10
20-August	107	00:15
21-August	95	00:11
22-August	82	00:08
23-August	82	00:12
26-August	114	00:17
27-August	100	00:11
28-August	112	00:16
29-August	86	00:11
30-August	82	00:10
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>00:16</b>

**Topic Categories**

Category	Calls	Emails
<b>Microbials/Disinfection Byproducts</b>		
Chlorine	26	2
Coliforms	142	2
Cryptosporidium	62	1
Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts (Other)	19	2
Disinfection – Home Water	37	2
Other Microbials	19	0
Surface Water Treatment (SWTR, ESWTR, LT1FBR)	36	6
Trihalomethane (THM)	14	1
<b>Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)/Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)</b>		
Arsenic	58	9
Fluoride	37	2
Methyl- <i>tertiary</i> -butyl-ether (MTBE)	20	3
Perchlorate	4	1
Phase I, II & V	41	7
Sodium Monitoring	5	3
Sulfate	3	0
<b>Lead and Copper</b>		
Copper	20	2
Lead	168	6
Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA)/Lead Ban	5	0
<b>Radionuclides</b>		
Radionuclides (Other)	45	4
Radionuclides (Radon)	102	5
<b>Secondary DW Regulations</b>		
Secondary DW Regulations	87	8
<b>SDWA Background/Overview</b>		
Definitions & Applicability	24	6
MCL List	59	9
Other Background	125	21
SDWA	16	7

Category	Calls	Emails
Water on Tap	51	2
<b>Other DW Regulations</b>		
Analytical Methods (DW)	28	9
Contaminant Candidate List/ Drinking Water Priority List	7	2
Consumer Confidence Report (DW)	161	6
DW Primacy (PWS)	3	0
Operator (PWS) Certification	3	4
Other Drinking Water Security	22	14
Public Notification (PWS)	36	3
Security Planning Grants	44	11
State Revolving Fund (DW)	4	2
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	39	0
<b>Other Drinking Water</b>		
Additives Program	3	2
Bottled Water	74	3
Complaints about PWS	71	11
Compliance & Enforcement (PWS)	19	3
Home Water Treatment Units	214	21
Infrastructure/Cap. Development	4	5
Local DW Quality	353	37
Tap Water Testing	321	22
Treatment/BATs (DW)	17	6
<b>Drinking Water Source Protection</b>		
Ground Water Rule	10	2
Sole Source Aquifer	2	1
Source Water/Wellhead Protect.	19	10
UIC Program	21	2
Out of Purview		
Household Wells	183	42
Non-Environmental	64	14
Non-EPA Environmental	74	24
Other EPA (Programs)	143	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,164</b>	<b>387</b>

## SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE MONTHLY REPORT

August 2002

### APPENDIX A: FEDERAL REGISTER SUMMARIES

#### NOTICES

##### **“Relocation of EPA Headquarter Dockets; Temporary Closures”**

**August 2, 2002 (67 FR 50429)**

EPA announced the temporary closure and relocation of the Agency's Headquarter Dockets. EPA consolidated the Headquarter paper docket facilities, which are identified in this document, into a combined docket facility known as the “EPA Docket Center.” This document provides additional details related to the relocation of EPA Headquarter dockets.

##### **“Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts, Chemical and Radionuclides Rules: Lead and Copper Rule Amendment”**

**August 5, 2002 (67 FR 50676)**

EPA announced that the Information Collection Request (ICR) entitled “Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts, Chemical and Radionuclides Rules: Lead and Copper Rule Amendment” (EPA ICR No. 1896.04, OMB Control No. 2040-0204) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

This ICR amendment will add the updated burden and costs for the Lead & Copper Rule (LCR) ICR, which expires September 30, 2002, to the Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts, Chemical and Radionuclides Rules ICR.

##### **“Joint USEPA/State Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Agreement to Pursue Regulatory Innovation: Alternative Treatment Technique for National Primary Drinking Water Lead and Copper Regulations for Certain Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems”**

**August 6, 2002 (67 FR 50880)**

EPA proposed to issue a variance under Section 1415(a)(3) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for certain Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems in the State of Michigan. The final SDWA variance would be used to implement a project entitled “Use of Flushing to Meet the Federal Lead/Copper Regulation for Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water Supply Systems.” This project is being proposed under the Joint USEPA/State Agreement to Pursue Regulatory Innovation between the USEPA and the Environmental Council of the States.

##### **“Meeting of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List Classification Process Working Group and Small Systems Affordability Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council”**

**August 20, 2002 (67 FR 53930)**

EPA announced meetings of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List Classification Process Work Group, and the Small Systems Affordability Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended.

**“Agency Information Collection Activities; OMB Responses”**

**August 22, 2002 (67 FR 54418)**

This document announced OMB responses to Agency clearance requests, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). Specifically, EPA ICR No. 1896.03, “Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts, Chemical, and Radionuclides Information Collection Request; Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation List 2 Amendments,” was approved June 17, 2002. This ICR, OMB No. 2040-0204, expires December 31, 2004. Also, EPA ICR No. 0270.41, “Public Water Systems Supervision Program Public Notification Amendment” in 40 CFR 141.31, 141.33, 141.201 - 141.210, 142.14(f), 142.15(a), and 142.16(a), was approved June 28, 2002. This ICR, OMB No. 2040-0090, expires November 30, 2004. ICR No. 2016.01, “Drinking Water Customer Satisfaction Survey,” was approved July 24, 2002. This ICR, OMB No. 2040-0247, expires May 31, 2003.

**“National Drinking Water Advisory Council; Request for Nominations”**

**August 26, 2002 (67 FR 54805)**

EPA invited all interested persons to nominate qualified individuals to serve a three-year term as members of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. This Council was established by the SDWA to provide practical and independent advice, consultation and recommendations to the Agency on the activities, functions, and policies related to the implementation of the SDWA.

**“Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Hydraulic Fracturing of Coal bed Methane (CBM) Wells Report”**

**August 28, 2002 (67 FR 55249)**

EPA completed a draft report entitled, “Evaluation of Impacts to Underground Sources of Drinking Water by Hydraulic Fracturing of Coal bed Methane Reservoirs”, EPA 816-D-02-006. The draft report contains the preliminary results of Phase I of an investigation undertaken by EPA to evaluate the impacts to underground sources of drinking water by hydraulic fracturing of CBM wells. Based on the information collected, EPA has preliminarily found that the potential threats to public health posed by hydraulic fracturing of CBM wells appear to be small and do not appear to justify additional study. EPA must receive public comment by October 28, 2002.